

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR
SUBJECT: GRAIN STORAGE CONSTRUCTION LAGS

1. LEAD ARTICLE IN CURRENT ISSUE OF EKONOMECHYESKAYA GAZETA
CONCERNS GROWTH IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GRAIN ELEVATORS. AVERAGE
NEW CAPACITY FOR FIRST TWO YEARS OF TENTH PLAN IS PUT AT 4.3
MILLION TONS COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE 3.3 MILLION IN 1971-75
AND 1.7 MILLION IN 1966-70. ARTICLE STATES THAT PLANNED NEW
CAPACITY IN 1978 IS "MORE THAN" FOUR MILLION TONS.

2. COMMENT: IT IS A BIT PUZZLING WHY SO MUCH PROMINENCE WAS
GIVEN TO AN ACTIVITY WHICH IS WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE. TENTH
PLAN GOAL OF 30 MILLION TONS WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE ANNUAL
CONSTRUCTION OF 6 MILLION TONS. WHILE CURRENT PACE IS
IMPRESSIVE BY EIGHTH AND NINTH PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS, IT IS WELL
BEHIND TENTH PLAN OBJECTIVES. SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THIS SECTOR
ARE IMPLICIT IN THE REPORTED 1978 GOAL OF "MORE THAN
4 MILLION TONS", WHICH IS SOMEWHAT LESS AMBITIOUS THAN
THE 1976 AND 1977 GOALS OF 4.8 AND 5.6 MILLION TONS RESPECTIVELY
(NEITHER OF WHICH WERE ACHIEVED). THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN NO
INDICATION AS YET THAT OVERALL TENTH PLAN STORAGE OBJECTIVES
HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY REDUCED.

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